

Office of the Coordinator and Special Advisor
American Embassy, Bad Godesberg

G-2/USAREUR, Liaison Element

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TO : CO, Hq, 56th CIC Group, USAREUR, APO 154, US Army
Attn: S-3 Section, CS Division

30 April 1957

FROM: T. C. Hughes, Jr.

FOR COORDINATION WITH

Army

SUBJ: Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz (BfV)

Re: Personnel, Utilization and Function

HALSWICK, Dr. Gustav,
born 1 Mar 1902 in SOLOTHURNE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

1. Reference is made to sub-paragraph 5c(2)(a) of Operations Memorandum 38/55, Hq, 66th CIC Group, USAREUR.

2. Dr. Gustav HALSWICK, alias Dr. LOCHNER or Dr. LOECHNER, has been an unofficial, covert employee ("freier Mitarbeiter") of the Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz since an undetermined date in 1953 or 1954. He initially came to the attention of this office in September 1954 when the then French Surrogate Liaison Officer (K. Leon POHL) informed me that he had learned from a "confidential" source that HALSWICK had been covertly employed by the BfV to head a small, covert section within the BfV's former Department II (Intelligence Collection). This section was to be known as "Referat Grenzlaender West (Section Border Land West)" and was to concern itself with counter intelligence activity along the west German borders with Switzerland, France, the Saar (then not a part of the Federal Republic), Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. (See my memo of 24 Sep 1954, file BV-54-2155, Subj: HALSWICK, Dr. (fm).)

3. Largely as a result of French protests, the section was never established. The French objected primarily to any BfV activity along the French/German border, which then included the Saar and, incidentally, to the person of Dr. HALSWICK. HALSWICK, a long-time German criminal police official, had been a member of the NSDAP and the Nazi SS and SD and, since he had been stationed with the SD in Paris during the war, was anathema to the French.

4. When the BfV dropped its plan to establish "Referat Grenzlaender West" HALSWICK was utilized to head the covert investigations team, the so-called "Haus Kapelle," in the former Department II, now taken over by the present Department IV. This investigations team, composed entirely of covert BfV employees; i. e., "freie Mitarbeiter" is concerned with covert investigations and surveillances; on occasion members of the staff have been seconded to the BfV Security Department for personnel security investigations.

5. HALSWICK has headed the "Haus Kapelle" since 1954. He had never been regularized; i. e., converted to the status of a regular, official employee, by the BfV owing to his Nazi, SS and SD background. In addition, pains were taken to conceal his identity and he adopted or was given the alias of Dr. LOCHNER or LOECHNER. However, consideration is now being given to the official appointment of HALSWICK as a regular member of the BfV staff to replace Karl LOSCHMIDT, head of Section V-2 (Complaint Cases and Physical Security in Government Agencies). LOSCHMIDT, as previously reported, is contemplating a transfer in the immediate future from the BfV to head the security section of the Foreign Office ("Auswaertiges Amt").

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6. Owing to the covert nature of his assignment, I have had very little contact with HALSWICK, having met him only briefly on two occasions. Humorously enough, on the one occasion he was introduced to me as Dr. LOCHNER and on the other as Dr. HALSWICK. I am thus unable to make any estimation of his ability or character, other than to state that he makes the initial impression of being a serious, capable, mature individual. He seems, however, to be well-regarded by BfV officials and, despite his background, an attempt may be made to regularize his employment so that he may serve as a replacement for ESCHWEILER.

7. COMMENT:

a. The long service of HALSWICK and others with a similar background in BfV employ creates a personnel problem for the BfV. On the one hand, the BfV and the Federal Interior Ministry is, or at least has been, reluctant to officially employ persons with SS, SD or Gestapo background since it is realized that such action might not only constitute an offense against the feelings of the Americans, British, and French but that the BfV might also receive considerable public criticism if it were known that the BfV was harboring former members of notorious Nazi organizations. On the other hand, there is constant pressure by such employees themselves, particularly those who have proved themselves to be of value, and from their well wishers within the BfV for regularization and the personnel benefits; i. e. social security, retirement pensions, etc., which accompany the status of official "Beamten" or "Angestellten." Lacking a broad reservoir of experienced security or investigative personnel upon which to draw for personnel replacement and personnel build-up, and hampered by comparatively low salary grades and the lack of an intelligence or security career plan, the BfV finds it difficult to attract suitably qualified personnel. Thus it has been forced, or is of the opinion that it has been forced, to employ persons in HALSWICK's category. In the case at hand, the BfV does not have any other suitable, experienced replacement for ESCHWEILER. For these reasons, it is not unlikely that HALSWICK may indeed be regularized and appointed to succeed ESCHWEILER.

b. If HALSWICK is appointed to succeed ESCHWEILER, the question of his recognition, in a social sense, will be one with which the Allied liaison officers to the BfV, representatives of other west European countries which have close liaison with the BfV and the BfV itself will have to concern themselves. This will be a particularly difficult problem for the French, whose resentment against former Nazis, and particularly those of the SS, SD and Gestapo who served in France, remains very strong. It will also be a particularly difficult problem for the BfV since HALSWICK's background may hinder his acceptance as a BfV representative by those dealing with the BfV who would be offended by his background.

Information copy to:
Liaison Division, S-2 Section
Hq. 66th CIC Group, USAARVN

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and-HALSWICK